

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

Friday, October 4, 1985

GEORGE N. GRAY
CHAIRMAN

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

October 4, 1985

Chairman George N. Gray, presiding:

Members Present:

Dr. Jack Cappel
Mr. Lyle Crain
Dr. Don Hines
Mr. Joe Palmisano

Mr. J. Burton Angelle was also present.

The minutes of the meeting of September 6, 1985 were approved. Motion by Dr. Hines, seconded by Dr. Cappel and approved unanimously.

At Tuesday's meeting three groups from Washington Parish were represented. The Conservation League and the Police Jury support dog hunting in the closed area. The Landowners Association opposed dog hunting in this area and these are the same groups which have been concerned with this for the last three years. Mr. Gray pointed out that the 1985-86 regulations pamphlet has been printed and could not be changed at this time. Dr. Hines suggested that they attend the public hearings which are held every year.

Also at Tuesday's meeting Mr. Angelle introduced Virginia Wright, director of the Seafood Marketing and Promotion Board and Albert Paxton, the Deputy Secretary. Virginia explained some of the activities of the Seafood Board and her duties as director.

John Robinette, Supervisor of District V, presented a slide series showing activities of the district at Tuesday's meeting. The two wildlife management areas in this district are West Bay and Sabine Island.

Robert Helm presented a report of the teal season at Tuesday's meeting.

Hugh Bateman stated that last week, Mr. Angelle signed an option agreement on acquiring an additional 4500 acres of wildlife habitat in Madison and Franklin Parishes which will adjoin the existing Big Lake Wildlife Management Area. This will basically complete the acquisition program in this area. Mr. Angelle reminded him that this acreage is now under our control. Mr. Gray and Hugh stated that this administration should be commended for having this money appropriated for this very important purpose.

Bennie Fontenot presented a rule to ratify netting prohibition in Lake Bistineau. Mr. Palmisano made a motion, seconded by Dr. Cappel which passed unanimously to ratify this rule.

(The full text of the rule here
is made a part of the record)

Recent fish population samples conducted on Lake Bistineau indicated very low populations of commercially valuable fish which are normally taken in nets. Catfish, the most popular and sought-after commercial species within the lake can still be adequately harvested commercially by other methods which include slat traps, trotlines and set lines. Studies evaluating the effects of netting on sport fish in Lake Bistineau showed netting was extremely detrimental to the largemouth bass, striped bass and crappie fishery within the lake. Therefore, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby close Lake Bistineau to the use of all netting for a period of three years. This closure is to become effective September 1, 1985 and to extend through August 31, 1988.

Bennie presented another rule to prohibit netting in Lacasine Bayou, which was made into a motion by Mr. Crain, seconded by Dr. Cappel and passed unanimously.

(The full text of the rule here
is made a part of the record)

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby prohibits the use of trammel nets, gill nets and hoop nets during the period March 1 through November 30 each year in that part of Lacasine Bayou that flows through the Lacassine National Refuge, Cameron Parish, Louisiana. This closure has been requested by the Fish and Wildlife Service who has management responsibility of the Refuge.

Bennie also presented a Notice of Intent for a special commercial fishing season in Lake Bruin. Dr. Hines made a motion, seconded by Dr. Cappel, and passed unanimously to accept the Notice of Intent.

(The full text of the notice here
is made a part of the record)

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission advertises its intent to establish and permit a special 71 day commercial fishing season allowing the use of nets in Lake Bruin, Tensas Parish, Louisiana, for the period beginning at sunrise December 20, 1985 and to close at sunset February 28, 1986.

The use of nets in Lake Bruin will be limited to:

Freshwater gill nets and trammel nets greater than or having at least a minimum mesh of 3 1/2" bar and 7" stretched.

Freshwater fish seines greater than or having at least a minimum mesh of 2" bar or 4" stretched.

Commercial fishermen will be required to obtain a special permit from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to fish with nets in Lake Bruin during this special season and will also submit a monthly catch report to the Department.

Net fishing will be permitted during daylight hours only, except that trammel and gill nets can remain set overnight but fish captured may be removed during daylight hours only.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed commercial fishing season until 4:30 PM, Wednesday, October 2, 1985, at the following address: J. Burton Angelle, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P. O. Box 15570, Baton Rouge, LA 70895.

At Tuesday's meeting Ray Montet explained the Enforcement activities for the month of August, 1985.

Also at Tuesday's meeting Harry Schafer gave the Survey Report. During the period of September 2 - September 29, 1985 117 surveys were scheduled, 42 were unable to be done due to bad weather or fishermen unable to meet surveyor and 2 no shows. Lease rental collected was \$940.90, survey fees collected was \$1,736.75 and 34 new leases were issued.

Johnnie Tarver presented a rule to ratify the trapping season for 1985-86. Mr. Crain made a motion to accept the ratification, seconded by Dr. Hines and passed unanimously.

(The full text of the rule here
is made a part of the record)

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby establish the 1985-86 furbearers trapping season for the northern zone as being November 20, 1985 through February 15, 1986 and the southern zone as being December 1, 1985 through February 28, 1986, and sets a bag limit for daytime and nighttime raccoon and/or opossum per hunter per day or night. The department secretary shall be authorized to close or extend the trapping season as biologically justifiable.

Greg Linscombe presented a detailed slide series of the activities of the fur research program at Tuesday's meeting.

The February meeting was set for Wednesday and Thursday, the 5th and 6th in Baton Rouge.

Mark Chatry explained the activities of the marine lab using a video. There was a standing display with pictures and information of the lab, a framed story which was presented to the family and a plaque which will be placed at the marine lab.

Mr. Angelle recognized Monroe St. Amant, Dr. St. Amant's wife and Mary Ann Scarley, his sister. He then gave an opening speech. He stated that less than a month after Dr. St. Amant's death the marine lab was named the Lyle S. St. Amant Marine Laboratory. Dr. St. Amant had served as director there for twelve years. Dr. St. Amant was a very likeable and interesting man with personal sincerity.

Mr. Gray presented the official dedication listing Dr. St. Amant's achievements and awards. His leadership and continued influence on the Department's programs shows that he was truly a remarkable man. He dedicated his entire career to the conservation efforts of the state and the Nation. The framed story or article which appeared in the Louisiana Conservationist in March-April 1982 was appropriately entitled "A Man to Remember". This was presented to Monroe St. Amant.

Mr. Angelle invited everyone to the kitchen for the reception and Mr. Gray adjourned the meeting.